

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6-12 and 15-19 remain pending in the application. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims.

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-8, 10-14, 16-17 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(e) as being anticipated by Davis et al (6,469,518). Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 4, 6, 9, 15, and 18 contain allowable subject matter. The Examiner has indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Unfortunately, however, Applicants have been unable to locate any rejection of these claims under section 112, or otherwise. Given, however, that each of these claims depends from a rejected base claim, Applicants assume that the Examiner intended to indicate that the claims would be allowed if rewritten into independent form, incorporating the limitations set forth in the claims from which they depend. Accordingly, Applicants have revised Independent claim 1 to incorporate recitations originally set forth in allowable claim 4. Not all of the limitations set forth in original claim 4 are now found in amended claim 1, however. The Examiner's attention is directed to the first element of claim 1, which has been removed to broaden the scope of claim 1 without reading upon the cited art. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom (2-3 and 6-8) are now in condition for allowance. Additionally, claim 19 has been similarly amended, and thus is also now in condition for allowance.

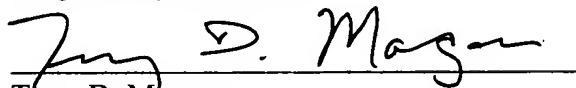
Similarly, claim 9 has been amended to incorporate the references set forth in original claims 1 and 7. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 9 is now also in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 10 has likewise been amended to include recitations set forth in original claim 13. The Examiner did not indicate that claim 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, but claim 13 is directed to similar subject matter to claim 4, which the Examiner did indicate as containing allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 10 and the claims depending therefrom (11-12 and 15-18) are now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at 713 934-4050 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

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Respectfully submitted,



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